

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 DHA-02 EURE-00
IGA-02 /117 W

-----038056 131643Z /41

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0821

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 07933

ALSO FOR USEEC

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, XA, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY: FOREIGN MINISTERS

POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING, JULY 12, 1977:

AFRICA

REF: BRUSSELS 7707

1. SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS HAD A DETAILED DISCUSSION ON AFRICA--ESPECIALLY SOUTH AFRICA--AT THEIR JULY 12 MEETING AND MANDATED THE NINE'S POLITICAL COOPERATION MACHINERY "WITH A SENSE OF URGENCY" TO UNDERTAKE A BROAD--NOT JUST POLITICAL--STUDY OF A COMMON POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE NINE HAVE INCREASING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE REST OF AFRICA. MINISTERS ORDERED STUDY OF "CODE OF CONDUCT" FOR EC FIRMS DOING BUSINESS IN SOUTH AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. SOUTH AFRICA: BELGIAN MFA PRESIDENCY DIRECTOR DE SCHOUTHEETE TOLD US THAT EC FOREIGN MINISTERS DECIDED THE NINE MUST DEFINE A COMMON POLICY TOWARDS SOUTH AFRICA AND THAT THIS MUST BE DONE WITH SPEED OR "WE WILL HAVE TROUBLE WITH THE REST OF AFRICA." THE MINISTERS INSTRUCTED THE PRESIDENCY TO INITIATE AN ACCELERATED STUDY OF SOUTH AFRICA. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID THE MINISTERS RECOGNIZED THAT THIS WAS NO LONGER JUST A POLITICAL PROBLEM AND THAT THE MANDATED STUDY SHOULD BE A MULTIDISCIPLINED APPROACH TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING PATTERNS OF TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ARMS SALES. DE SCHOUTHEETE TOLD US HE WAS NOT SURE HOW THE PRESIDENCY WOULD CARRY OUT THIS SPECIAL MANDATE. ALL RECOGNIZED THAT THE TRADITIONAL POLITICAL EXPERTS' FORUM LACKED THE EXPERTISE FOR THIS EXPANDED TASK AND THAT EXPERTS FROM OTHER MINISTRIES WOULD NEED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE STUDY AND POLICY FORMATION PROCESS. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID NO DEADLINE HAD BEEN SET BUT TWO BENCHMARK DATES WOULD BE KEPT IN MIND: THE AUGUST 22-26 LAGOS CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID, AND THE BEGINNING OF DEBATES ON AFRICA AT THE 32ND UNGA THIS FALL. DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID THAT MINISTERS DID NOT ENVISION A "LEADING ROLE" FOR THE NINE IN SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS LIKE NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA BUT THAT THE QUESTION OF SOUTH AFRICA AND ITS IMPACT ON THE REST OF AFRICA OFFERED A "FIELD OF ACTION" FOR THE NINE.

3. ACCORDING TO A UK SPOKESMAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN WARNED HIS COLLEAGUES THAT THE WEST WOULD BE UNDER CONSTANT PRESSURE AT THE UNGA TO APPLY CHAPTER 7 OF THE UN CHARTER. HE SAID THAT THE NINE, WITH THEIR LARGE FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA, SHOULD BE IN

A POSITION TO RESPOND TO THE AFRICAN GROUP. OWEN LATER
TOLD REPORTERS THAT IF THE EC WAS TO "CARRY ANY CREDI-
BILITY" IT WOULD HAVE TO SHIFT FROM A PASSIVE POLICY OF
ACCEPTING UN RESOLUTIONS RELUCTANTLY, OR GETTING
THEM CHANGED, OR VETOING THEM, TO AN ACTIVE STRATEGY,
USING ITS "ECONOMIC INHERITANCE" IN SOUTH AFRICA. OWEN
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TOLD PRESS THAT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF MANDATORY
SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA POINTING OUT THAT MOST EC
MEMBER STATES DO NOT CONSIDER THAT TO BE "THE RIGHT
APPROACH AT THE MOMENT." OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THAT
MINISTERS DID NOT WANT TO BE IN THE POSITION OF "FORCING

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SOUTH AFRICA BACK INTO ITSELF AND OSTRACIZING IT FROM THE WORLD," AND THAT AS LONG AS THERE WAS A CHANCE FOR "A PEACEFUL TRANSITION AND CHANGE," THE EC SHOULD TRY TO EXERT ITS ECONOMIC INFLUENCE. ACCORDING TO PERMREP SOURCES, THE FRENCH TOLD THEIR COLLEAGUES THAT WHILE THEY COULD ACCEPT SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA AND NAMIBIA, THEY WOULD VETO ANY CHAPTER 7 SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT: DE SCHOUTHEETE TOLD US THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AUTHORIZED THE STUDY OF A POSSIBLE "CODE OF CONDUCT" FOR EC FIRMS TRADING AND INVESTING IN SOUTH AFRICA. HE SAID SUCH A COMMON CODE WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE LAWS OF MEMBER STATES. FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN ACKNOWLEDGED TO REPORTERS THAT THERE WOULD BE OPERATIONAL DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTING SUCH A CODE; E.G., THE CASE OF SUBSIDIARIES OF EUROPEAN FIRMS OPERATING UNDER SOUTH AFRICAN LAW. HE IDENTIFIED AREAS WHICH MIGHT BE ADDRESSED BY A CODE OF CONDUCT: WAGE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE, DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AS TO PLACE AND CONDITIONS OF WORK, AND RECOGNITIONS OF TRADE UNIONS. DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL TOLD HIS COLLEAGUES THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAD INSTITUTED SUCH A CODE IN 1974 AND OFFERED TO MAKE THE DUTCH EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE TO THE WORKING GROUP.

5. RHODESIA: DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID OWEN BRIEFED HIS COLLEAGUES ON THE STATE OF NEGOTIATION IN RHODESIA. OWEN LATER TOLD PRESS THAT THE REMAINING PROBLEMS CENTERED ON HOW TO DEAL WITH TRANSITION RELATIONSHIPS, BOTH POLITICAL
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AND MILITARY. HE SAID THE MINISTERS ALSO HAD INSTRUCTED THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE PROBLEM OF OIL COMPANY

SUBSIDIARIES IN SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUING TO
SELL TO RHODESIA IN CONTRAVENTION OF UN SANCTIONS. ON
THE QUESTION OF GENERAL SANCTIONS, OWEN OBSERVED TO
REPORTERS THAT "WE HAVE CONSCIENTIOUSLY APPLIED SANCTIONS
WHILE QUITE A NUMBER OF COMMUNITY COUNTRIES HAVE NOT."
OWEN TOLD REPORTERS THE UK REJECTED THE NOTION OF TRADING
OFF CONCESSIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA IN EXCHANGE FOR PRESSURE
ON RHODESIA.

6. ZAIRE: DE SCHOUTHEETE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
SIMONET BRIEFED HIS COLLEAGUES ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN
ZAIRE FOLLOWING HIS RECENT TRIP THERE. IN RESPONSE TO OUR
QUESTION, HE SAID THAT, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE, SIMONET DID NOT
DISCUSS A PROPOSED MULTILATERAL "MARSHALL PLAN" OF AID FOR
ZAIRE WITH THE MINISTERS. HE SAID THAT BELGIUM VIEWED
THAT SUBJECT AS A BILATERAL ISSUE AND NOT ONE FALLING
WITHIN THE NINE'S POLITICAL COOPERATION PURVIEW.

7. HORN OF AFRICA: DE SCHOUTHEETE TOLD US THAT ITALIAN
FOREIGN MINISTER BRIEFED HIS COLLEAGUES ON CURRENT
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA. ACCORDING TO PERM
REP SOURCES, THE MINISTERS AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF
ENCOURAGING SOMALI MODERATION AND WELCOMED THE GROWING
INFLUENCE OF OTHER ARAB STATES--PARTICULARLY SAUDI
ARABIA--IN THAT COUNTRY. THE MINISTERS ALSO AGREED ON THE
NEED TO SUPPORT THE KENYATTA AND NIMIERI GOVERNMENTS IN
KENYA AND THE SUDAN.

8. THE FOREIGN MINISTERS DID NOT DISCUSS THE EURO-ARAB
DIALOGUE NOR CYPRUS.

9. THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER DID NOT ATTEND THE
MEETING AND WAS REPRESENTED BY HIS POLITICAL DIRECTOR.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BRUSSE07933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770249-0504
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770764/aaaacdcn.tel
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BRUSSELS 7707
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1882076
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIAN EC PRESIDENCY: FOREIGN MINISTERS POLITICAL COOPERATION MEETING, JULY 12, 1977: AFRICA
TAGS: PFOR, XF, XA, BE, EEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4903586c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009